

## Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL SYDNEY PRIORITY

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EXDIS, SYDNEY FOR ASST SECTY HABIB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KS, KN

SUBJECT: KOREA AT 31ST UNGA: CONSULTATIONS

REF: (A) SEOUL 1400, (B) SEOUL 1486

1. WE SHARE YOUR CONCERN ABOUT ROKG POSITION. IF ROKG PERSISTS IN INSISTING THAT IT WILL ONLY CONSIDER ITS OWN APPROACH, WE SEE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT SITUATION IN WHICH MANY OF OUR SUPPORTERS IN AND OUT OF THE CORE GROUP WOULD SEIZE ON ROKG DEFEATISM AS OPPORTUNITY TO AVOID INVOLVEMENT. ESSENTIAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OUR TWO POSITIONS IS THAT ROKG HAS DETERMINED ON COURSE OF ACTION WHICH WE BELIEVE PREMATURE AND POSSIBLY QUITE HARMFUL, WHILE WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD USE PERIOD BETWEEN NOW AND MAY-JUNE TO WEIGH OPTIONS OPEN TO US AND MAKE BEST POSSIBLE ASSESSMENT OF SUPPORT FOR WHATEVER POSITION WE MAY WISH TO ADOPT. EMBASSY SHOULD CONTINUE TO MAKE OUR POSITION CLEAR TO FONMIN PARK AND OTHER SENIOR ROKG OFFICIALS INDICATING THAT UNGA CONSIDERA-

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TION OF KOREAN QUESTION INVOLVES NOT ONLY ROK BUT US INTER-

ESTS.

2. AT SAME TIME WE BELIEVE THAT SUGGESTED APPROACH OUTLINED BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS BUREAU DIRECTOR CHUNG (PARA 2 REF B) DOES OFFER CONSTRUCTIVE TACTICAL APPROACH TO QUESTION

OF CONSULTATIONS WITH CORE GROUP. WE WOULD HAVE NO MAJOR PROBLEM WITH APPROACH TO CORE GROUP IN WHICH VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES, INCLUDING ROKG SUGGESTED COURSE OF ACTION, ARE LAID OUT AND ADDRESSED. HOWEVER, IT IS ESSENTIAL, IN OUR VIEW, THAT THE ROKG DEMONSTRATE OPEN MIND IN ASSESSING VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES AND NOT GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT IT WILL CONSIDER ONLY ONE APPROACH (IT'S OWN). WITH THE ABOVE CAVEATS, WE THINK APPROACH OUTLINED BY CHUNG IN PARA 2, REF B, WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE BASIS FOR PROCEEDING WITH INITIAL CORE GROUP MEETING.

3. SPECIFICALLY, WE WOULD ENVISION FOLLOWING AGENDA FOR INITIAL CORE GROUP MEETING AT WHICH WE WOULD FOCUS ON POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION AND WILLINGNESS TO SEEK VIEWS OF OTHERS, RATHER THAN FIRM DECISIONS:

- A. INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF PROSPECTS AT 31ST UNGA.
- B. ESTIMATE OF NORTH KOREAN INTENTIONS.
- C. VARIOUS ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES.
- D. IMMEDIATE ACTIONS CORE GROUP MEMBERS SHOULD TAKE (E.G., WITH NON-ALIGNED, AND POTENTIAL SUPPORTERS).

4. WE ALSO FEEL THAT PROLONGED DELAY IN HOLDING INITIAL MEETING WILL TEND TO PLACE UNWARRANTED IMPORTANCE ON CORE GROUP AS WELL AS HIGHLIGHT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US AND ROK. WE THINK THAT FIRST MEETING OF CORE GROUP SHOULD BE HELD IN NEW YORK IN EARLY MARCH AND THAT MARCH 9 IS STILL FEASIBLE TARGET DATE SUBJECT TO VIEWS OF OTHER CORE GROUP MEMBERS. THEREFORE, SHOULD ROKG AGREE WITH ABOVE APPROACH WE BELIEVE IT SHOULD SOUND OUT OTHER CORE GROUP MEMBERS IMMEDIATELY FOR THEIR VIEWS ON DATE OF FIRST MEETING.

5. IF YOU BELIEVE IT USEFUL, WE ARE PREPARED TO CALL IN AMBASSADOR HAHM HERE TO REINFORCE YOUR APPROACHES. INGERSOLL  
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